Amendments

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

92.   (Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising:

(A)   a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, wherein each tag is assigned a first permanent identification number and a second permanent identification number, wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive and transmit signals; and

(B)   a tag reader having means for transmitting a signal to said RFID tags and means for resolving contention between multiple RFID tags that respond to said signal;

(C)   wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive said signal from said reader, evaluate said signal relative to said first or second permanent identification numbers, and reply to said signal if appropriate.

93.   (Amended) The electronic inventory of claim 92, wherein at least one of said plurality of RFID tags has a sensor; and means for transmitting the contents of said sensor.

95.   (Amended) The electronic inventory system of claim 94, wherein each RFID tag counts said clock signals and when the count is equivalent to said first permanent identification number, transmits its reply to said tag reader.

101.   (Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising:

(A)   a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, wherein each tag is assigned a plurality of identification numbers, wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive and transmit signals; and

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(B)   a tag reader having means for transmitting a signal to said RFID tags and means for resolving contention resolution between multiple RFID tags that respond to said signal;

(C)   wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive a signal from said reader, evaluate one or more of said plurality of identification numbers, and reply to said signal if appropriate.

102.   (Amended) The electronic inventory system of claim 101, wherein said tag reader can initiate an immediate read of said RFID tags, a specific RFID tag read, or a timed broadcast read of said RFID tags.

104.   (Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising a plurality of RFID tags and a tag reader that performs multiple reads of said RFID tags to avoid time slot contention, wherein said tag is identified by a plurality of bits, wherein said tag reader uses a first plurality of said plurality of bits during a first read and a second plurality of said plurality of bits during a second read.

109.   (Amended) A method for conducting an electronic inventory of radio frequency identification tags, the method comprising the steps of:

(A)   transmitting a first signal to a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, wherein each tag is assigned a first identification number and a second identification number, wherein said RFID tags are configured to receive and transmit signals; and

(B)   receiving a reply from said plurality of RFID tags, said tags responding to said first signal based on the value of said first identification number;

(C)   resolving contention between multiple RFID tags if there is a conflict between at least two of said RFID tags subsequent to said RFID tags responding to said first signal, including transmitting a second signal to said plurality of RFID tags.